

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 /079 W

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R 301401Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 6469

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, LE, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LEBANESE CRISIS

REF: A. CAIRO 6293 B. CAIRO 6230

1. EDITORIALS IN ALL THREE ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES JUNE 29 DECRY LATEST OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN LEBANON, CALLING IT MOST SERIOUS EPISODE TO DATE. THEY EXPRESS UNANIMOUS OPINION THAT "INVISIBLE ALIEN FORCE" REPEATEDLY APPEARS AT THE LAST MOMENT "TO ADD FUEL TO DYING FIRE". LEBANON HAS BECOME "THERMOMETER AND TESTING GROUND IN WHICH ALL FORCES HOSTILE TO ARAB RIGHTS TEST THEIR CAPABILITY OF MOUNTING A WIDE SCALE OFFENSIVE". ONLY AHRAH IDENTIFIES THE ALIEN FORCE: "THE ENEMY, WHILE SUFFERING SERIOUS INTERNAL DIFFERENCES OVER THE NEXT STEP, IS SPARING NO EFFORT TO CREATE DIFFERENCES IN THE ARAB ARENA, RATHER THAN RISKING AN EXPLOSION INSIDE ISRAEL". GUMHURIYYA'S EDITOR ADDS THAT SERIOUS ARAB CONCERN IS EVIDENCED BY MEDIATION EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND OF SYRIA.

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2. COMMENT: FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, THESE EDITORIALS COMPLETELY AVOID GOE THEME OF PREVIOUS WEEK THAT QADHAAFI'S MONEY IS BEHIND LEBANESE TROUBLES (REF A). IN FACT, ONLY ONE DAY EARLIER (JUNE 28), AKHBAR AL-YAWM CARRIES "EYEWITNESS REPORT" THAT LIBYANS IN BEIRUT HAVE TORTURED AND KILLED PHALANGISTS AND PALESTINIANS AND HAVE THROWN BODIES INTO THE STREET TO INCITE FURTHER FIGHTING. ARTICLE ADDS THAT IT IS NOW COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN LEBANON THAT "QADHAAFI HAS SPENT 42 MILLION DINARS... IN LINE WITH THE ZIONIST PLOT AGAINST LEBANON."

3. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT, ASIDE FROM SADAT, ONLY SYRIA (ASAD IS NOT MENTIONED) IS SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE FOR ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS, WHEREAS LAST WEEK ONLY SAUDI ARABIA SHARED THE PODIUM OF PRAISE WITH SADAT (REF B). IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS METING OUT OF RECOGNITION IN THE PRESS IS GOE DIRECTED OR IS MERELY MEASURE OF EDITORIAL LICENSE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO06469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750226-0858
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975061/aaaaaafs.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAIRO 6293, 75 CAIRO 6230
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LEBANESE CRISIS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006